The Citizen Shoreline Inventory

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Adopt a Beach

Abstract

The Citizen Shoreline Inventory is a new program (started 2/97) that unites two goals: 1) to fill the information gaps that exist about Puget Sound's shoreline habitat condition and extent, and 2) to provide an opportunity to educate and train community members about the value of shorelines (generally beaches, estuaries and adjacent land uses) and the impacts that we, as a society, have upon them. The findings of the inventory will be displayed and updated in a Citizen Shoreline Atlas, a series of living map-based documents available on a Geographic Information System linked to the Internet. Data will also be available in a database (Excel) format.

This paper will address several points:

- Practical uses, to date, of the data by watershed planners, researchers, land use managers, and community assessment of sensitive sites;
- Basic statistical findings on completeness of the pilot efforts (ending 12/97);
- Data management, quality assurance, quality control, and shoreline criteria plans (these will be outlined to address commonly stated concerns about volunteer monitoring; basic premises, partnership and advisory roles in creating and refining the program);
- Format of the Atlas will be shown via overheads (or slides); and
- Expected future of program.

Analysis of pilot studies was to be completed in January 1998, but indications show that the inventory will be able to create a pool of information that is useful and creates a constituency among the general public that believes our shores are worthy of extra protection efforts.

DFO's Pacific Region Shorekeeper’s Initiative

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Abstract

There are presently no long-term databases describing community structure for intertidal ecosystems in British Columbia. Short-term documentation exists, along with some longer-term data on specific species, notably commercial clams, but these do not consider the broad ecosystem. In recent years, stimulated in part by urbanization in the Strait of Georgia and concern about possible effects of global warming, there has been increased interest in developing protocols to facilitate long-term data collection. Some proposals have been initiated by NGOs, but these have tended to focus more on education of the public rather than rigorous data collection and database maintenance. As a response, we have developed a protocol termed the "Shorekeeper's Guide" which will be made available to the public. This protocol has been developed as a series of modules that allow individuals or community groups to survey the intertidal to a degree that meets their ability and interests. However, intrinsic to all modules are procedures for standardization of data collection, recording, and maintenance. Data collection is based around identification of biological structure in habitats determined by physical characteristics. This talk will describe progress to date and the results of an extensive field evaluation of the protocol.